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MICHIGAN LABOR MARKET REVIEW

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JOB SERVICE

Michigan Employment Security Commission

JOBLESS RATE CONTINUES TO DECLINE

The Michigan unemployment rate inched downward by one tenth of a percentage point over the month as the jobless rate slipped from 12.6 percent in February to 12.5 percent in March. The rate decrease represents approximately 539,000 individuals seeking employment during the month. The decline in joblessness was primarily a result of job gains in the retail and service industries and limited growth in the manufacturing sector. Total employment in March registered a small gain as the number of employed residents climbed by 48,000 to reach 3,757,000. Subsequently, the gains in both employment and unemployment pushed the civilian labor force up by 51,000 to finish the month at 4,296,000. Compared with a year ago, employment in the state has leaped by 240,000 or 6.8 percent, while the size of the labor force has expanded by 58,000. In March 1983, the total number of persons out of work amounted to 722,000, representing an unemployment rate of 17.0 percent.

STATE PAYROLLS CONTINUE UPWARD TREND

Wage and salary employment in Michigan increased for the second consecutive month as total industry jobs rose to 3,255,300 in March. Employment opportunities edged upward by approximately 14,900 as gains were evident in all three major sectors of the economy. Total manufacturing employment at 936,900, inched upward by 4,600 primarily as a result of increased job gains in the metals, machinery and transportation equipment industries. Private nonmanufacturing employment jumped by 8,500 to 1,733,900 in March, as normal seasonal patterns increased hiring activities throughout the construction, retail trade and service related industries. Public sector payrolls climbed by 1,800 as federal and local gains were partially offset by state level losses. Since March 1983, industry employment in Michigan has increased by 125,700 positions or four percent. Approximately 87,600 manufacturing jobs have been added throughout the year, while nonmanufacturing climbed by 40,400 and government fell by 2,300.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES
MARCH 1984 (Preliminary)

Area	Civilian Labor Force	Total Employment	Total Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Michigan	4,296,000	3,757,000	539,000	12.5
Ann Arbor SMSA	150,600	139,700	10,900	7.2
Battle Creek SMSA	79,500	69,200	10,300	13.0
Bay City SMSA	52,400	44,000	8,400	16.0
Benton Harbor SMSA	70,500	61,000	9,500	13.5
Detroit SMSA	1,963,500	1,721,700	241,800	12.3
Flint SMSA	221,600	192,500	29,100	13.1
Grand Rapids SMSA	334,700	301,100	33,600	10.0
Jackson SMSA	64,500	55,600	8,900	13.8
Kalamazoo SMSA	140,300	125,900	14,400	10.3
Lansing SMSA	249,600	228,100	21,500	8.6
Muskegon SMSA	76,100	65,100	11,000	14.5
Saginaw SMSA	98,600	86,500	12,100	12.3
Upper Peninsula LMA	143,200	115,300	27,900	19.5

Civilian Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment Estimates

State of Michigan

Item	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Jan. 1984	Mar. 1983
PLACE OF RESIDENCE				
Civilian Labor Force	4,296.0	4,244.0	4,146.0	4,238.0
Employment	3,757.0	3,709.0	3,616.0	3,517.0
Unemployment	539.0	535.0	530.0	722.0
Rate	12.5%	12.6%	12.8%	17.0%
PLACE OF WORK				
Wage and Salary Employment	3,255.3	3,240.4	3,221.8	3,129.6
Manufacturing	936.9	932.3	923.2	849.3
Durables	740.0	735.0	725.6	661.4
Lumber & Wood Products	11.5	11.0	11.1	9.6
Furniture & Fixtures	22.9	22.8	22.9	20.2
Metals	166.7	165.7	164.9	147.4
Primary Metals	54.1	53.8	53.5	48.7
Fabricated Metals	112.6	111.9	111.4	98.7
Nonelectrical Machinery	122.8	121.5	120.1	116.3
Electrical Machinery	32.4	31.9	31.5	30.1
Transportation Equipment	347.6	345.8	339.2	304.4
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	328.3	327.0	320.7	286.9
Other Transportation Equip.	19.3	18.8	18.5	17.5
Other Durables	36.1	36.3	35.9	33.4
Nondurables	196.9	197.3	197.6	187.9
Food & Kindred Products	45.0	44.8	45.3	42.8
Textiles & Apparel	20.3	20.3	20.5	17.6
Paper & Allied Products	20.5	20.6	20.4	20.0
Printing & Publishing	33.6	33.6	33.3	32.9
Chemicals & Petroleum	41.5	41.8	42.4	42.9
Other Nondurables	36.0	36.2	35.7	31.7
Nonmanufacturing	1,733.9	1,725.4	1,727.5	1,693.5
Construction	81.3	79.4	79.1	73.1
Trans., Commun., & Utilities	138.5	138.2	138.0	137.2
Wholesale Trade	155.3	154.8	152.7	146.9
Retail Trade	536.4	531.6	540.6	526.7
Finance, Real Estate & Ins.	153.5	153.2	152.9	149.8
Services	660.3	659.8	655.8	651.6
Mining	8.6	8.4	8.4	8.2
Government	584.5	582.7	571.1	586.8
Federal	55.2	54.9	54.8	55.5
State	147.3	147.5	144.6	144.5
Local	382.0	380.3	371.7	386.8
Workers Involved in Labor Disputes	0.2	0.5	0.4	2.1

* Indicates a labor-management dispute in the industry.

Notes: Data expressed in thousands. Current month data are preliminary.

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE data are based on the monthly Current Population Survey of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics — 1983 Benchmark.

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT is based on a monthly sample of employing establishments as part of the co-operative federal-state Current Employment Statistics program — March 1983 Benchmark.

Claims Activity

The number of individuals collecting regular unemployment benefits in Michigan declined for the second consecutive month in March. The regular benefits claims load averaged 138,240 or 7.5 percent lower than the month ago total. In March 1983, the number of claimants drawing benefits under the regular benefit program averaged 229,325.

During the month of March, the number of persons collecting benefits under the Federal Supplemental Compensation (FSC) program inched upward by 345 or one percent. Total individuals collecting FSC benefits amounted to 30,520 per week. The Extended Benefit (EB) program ended on May 21, 1983, thereby disqualifying claimants from collecting benefits under that program.

Weekly Claims for Unemployment Insurance

Week Ending	Regular Program			Federal Supplemental Compensation		
	Total	Initial	Cont'd	Total	Initial	Cont'd
March 3, 1984	144,700	14,500	130,200	30,400	3,700	26,700
March 10, 1984	142,100	13,900	128,200	30,200	3,500	26,700
March 17, 1984	137,200	12,800	124,400	30,400	3,500	26,900
March 24, 1984	136,100	16,100	120,000	30,700	3,600	27,100
March 31, 1984	131,100	13,300	117,800	30,900	3,500	27,400

Slight Increase in Area Prices

The consumer Price Index for the Detroit metropolitan area inched upward by three-tenths of a percent over the month to reach 304.1 in March. The rise in Detroit area prices was primarily the result of higher housing and transportation costs. Prices in the area rose by four percent since March 1983 when the Consumer Price Index stood at 292.4.

At the national level, the cost of living climbed by seven-tenths of a point to total 307.3. The national increase was a direct result of higher prices for men and women's apparel. Between March 1983 and March 1984, national consumer prices rose by 4.7 percent. One year ago, the national index registered 293.4.

Hours and Earnings

The average hourly earning of Michigan's production workers in manufacturing industries rose from $12.00 in February to $12.12 in March. The rise occurred primarily as a result of higher wages paid to workers in various goods-producing industries.

During the month, average weekly earnings jumped by $4.90 to $525.59, while the average workweek remained stable at 43.4 hours. In March 1983, earnings averaged $11.41 an hour or $476.28 per week for a 41.7 hour workweek.

Industry	Average Hourly Earnings a/			Average Weekly Hours a/			Average Weekly Earnings a/		
	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983	Mar. 1984	Feb. 1984	Mar. 1983
TOTAL MANUFACTURING	**$12.12**	**$12.00**	**$11.41**	**43.4**	**43.4**	**41.7**	**$525.59**	**$520.69**	**$476.28**
DURABLE GOODS	12.63	12.48	11.88	43.8	43.9	42.0	553.00	547.59	498.68
Primary Metal Products	12.30	12.27	12.34	41.9	42.3	40.4	515.08	519.30	498.32
Fabricated Metal Products	11.88	11.79	11.15	43.4	44.0	41.5	515.21	519.43	462.98
Nonelectrical Machinery	12.02	11.96	11.48	43.3	43.1	40.7	520.75	515.88	467.10
Electrical Machinery	10.43	10.21	10.00	41.6	40.8	40.6	433.77	417.24	405.73
Motor Vehicles & Equip.	14.20	13.94	13.17	45.3	45.4	43.4	643.50	632.19	571.94
NONDURABLE GOODS	10.05	10.04	9.67	41.7	41.5	40.9	418.71	417.04	394.97
Contract Construction	14.57	14.62	14.82	35.7	35.6	35.0	520.74	521.07	518.96
Department Stores	6.30	6.33	6.17	28.6	28.4	27.8	180.16	179.72	171.53

a/ *Average weekly and hourly earnings are computed from aggregates of individual establishment reports utilizing the total amount paid to production workers and total production hours. Average weekly and hourly earnings differ from weekly and hourly rates in that they are affected by overtime wage rates, part-time earnings, the length of the workweek, etc.*

Note: *Current month data are preliminary.*

Labor Surplus Areas Eligible for Federal Procurement Preference From October 1, 1983 through September 30, 1984

Eligible Labor Surplus Areas	Political Jurisdiction(s) Included
Alcona County	Alcona County
Alger County	Alger County
Allegan County	Allegan County
Alpena County	Alpena County
Antrim County	Antrim County
Arenac County	Arenac County
Baraga County	Baraga County
Barry County	Barry County
Battle Creek City	Battle Creek City in Calhoun County
Bay County	Bay County
Benzie County	Benzie County
Berrien County	Berrien County
Branch County	Branch County
Calhoun County, Balance of	Calhoun County, less Battle Creek City
Cass County	Cass County
Charlevoix County	Charlevoix County
Cheboygan County	Cheboygan County
Chippewa County	Chippewa County
Clare County	Clare County
Clinton County	Clinton County
Clinton Township	Clinton Township in Macomb County
Crawford County	Crawford County
Dearborn Heights City	Dearborn Heights City in Wayne County
Delta County	Delta County
Detroit City	Detroit City in Wayne County
Dickinson County	Dickinson County
Eaton County, Balance of	Eaton County less Lansing City
Emmet County	Emmet County
Farmington Hills City	Farmington Hills in Oakland County
Flint City	Flint City in Genesee County
Genessee County, Balance of	Genesee County less Flint City
Gladwin County	Gladwin County
Gogebic County	Gogebic County
Grand Rapids City	Grand Rapids City in Kent County
Grand Traverse County	Grand Traverse County
Gratiot County	Gratiot County
Hillsdale County	Hillsdale County
Houghton County	Houghton County
Huron County	Huron County
Ionia County	Ionia County
Iosco County	Iosco County
Iron County	Iron County
Jackson County	Jackson County
Kalamazoo City	Kalamazoo City in Kalamazoo County
Kalkaska County	Kalkaska County
Keweenaw County	Keweenaw County
Lake County	Lake County
Lansing City	Lansing City in Ingham and Eaton Counties
Lapeer County	Lapeer County
Leelanau County	Leelanau County
Lenawee County	Lenawee County
Livingston County	Livingston County
Luce County	Luce County
Mackinac County	Mackinac County
Macomb County, Balance of	Macomb County less Clinton Township, Roseville City, St. Clair Shores City, Sterling Heights City, Warren City
Manistee County	Manistee County
Marquette County	Marquette County
Mason County	Mason County
Mecosta County	Mecosta County
Menominee County	Menominee County
Midland County	Midland County
Missaukee County	Missaukee County
Monroe County	Monroe County
Montcalm County	Montcalm County
Montmorency County	Montmorency County
Muskegon County	Muskegon County
Newaygo County	Newaygo County
Oakland County, Balance of	Oakland County less Farmington Hills City Pontiac City, Royal Oak City, Southfield City, Troy City, Waterford Township
Oceana County	Oceana County
Ogemaw County	Ogemaw County
Ontonagon County	Ontonagon County
Osceola County	Osceola County
Oscoda County	Oscoda County
Otsego County	Otsego County
Pontiac City	Pontiac City in Oakland County
Presque Isle County	Presque Isle County
Roscommon County	Roscommon County
Roseville City	Roseville City in Macomb County
Royal Oak City	Royal Oak City in Oakland County
Saginaw City	Saginaw City in Saginaw County
Saginaw County, Balance of	Saginaw County less Saginaw City
St. Clair County	St. Clair County
St. Clair Shores City	St. Clair Shores City in Macomb County
St. Joseph County	St. Joseph County
Sanilac County	Sanilac County
Schoolcraft County	Schoolcraft County
Shiawassee County	Shiawassee County
Southfield City	Southfield City in Oakland County
Sterling Heights City	Sterling Heights City in Macomb County
Taylor City	Taylor City in Wayne County
Tuscola County	Tuscola County
Van Buren County	Van Buren County
Warren City	Warren City in Macomb County
Washtenaw County, Balance of	Washtenaw County less Ann Arbor City
Waterford Township	Waterford Township in Oakland County
Wayne County, Balance of	Wayne County less Dearborn City, Dearborn Heights City, Detroit City, Livonia City, Redford Township, Taylor City, Westland City
Westland City	Westland City in Wayne County
Wexford County	Wexford County

Source: Michigan Employment Security Commission — Bureau of Research and Statistics

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